

CLAIMS

I claim the following:

1. A golf club storage apparatus comprising:

an elongated tube having a top end and a bottom end;

a sleeve adapted for holding a golf club, wherein said sleeve is slidably positioned within said elongated tube;

a biasing element positioned between said elongated tube and said sleeve wherein said biasing element is adapted to bias the position of said sleeve relative to said elongated tube; and

a latch adapted to secure said sleeve inside said elongated tube when said biasing element is compressed.

2. The golf club storage apparatus of claim 1 wherein said biasing element has a resilient restoration force that is greater than a combined weight of said sleeve and a golf club.

3. The golf club storage apparatus of claim 1 wherein said biasing element is a spring.

4. The golf club storage apparatus of claim 1 wherein said sleeve comprises an inner tube and a gripper connected to said inner tube.

5. The golf club storage apparatus of claim 4 wherein said inner tube does not extend beyond the top end of said elongated tube when said biasing element is in an expanded position.

6. The golf club storage apparatus of claim 4 wherein a length of said inner tube is less than three fourths of a length of said elongated tube.

7. The golf club storage apparatus of claim 4 wherein said gripper comprises a plurality of arms extending from said inner tube.

8. The golf club storage apparatus of claim 4 wherein said biasing element has a resilient restoration force that is greater than a weight of said sleeve, and less than the combined weight of said sleeve and a golf club.

9. The golf club storage apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

a gripper connected to a top portion of said elongated tube.

10. The golf club storage apparatus of claim 9 wherein said gripper element is interconnected to said sleeve such that when said sleeve is pushed downward into said elongated tube, said gripper element will move inward toward a central axis of said elongated tube.

11. The golf club storage apparatus of claim 1 wherein said latch is a push-and-engage latch, and said latch is adapted such that when said sleeve is pushed downward into said elongated tube said latch engages and secures said sleeve, and when said sleeve is subsequently pushed downward said latch disengages and releases said sleeve.

12. The golf club storage apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

a gripper adapted to secure said golf club when said sleeve is push downward into said elongated tube, wherein said gripper is integrated within a midsection of said sleeve.

13. The golf club storage apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

a padding attached to an inner surface of said sleeve.

14. The golf club storage apparatus of claim 1 wherein said padding comprises a polymeric pile.

15. The golf club storage apparatus of claim 4 further comprising:

a padding attached to said gripper.

16. The golf club storage apparatus of claim 15 wherein said padding comprises a polymeric material.

17. The golf club storage apparatus of claim 4 further comprising:

a polymeric structure adapted to capture a club head of said golf club, wherein said polymeric structure is attached to a distal end of said gripper.

18. The golf club storage apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

a gripper attached to said elongated tube, wherein said gripper is configured such that when said biasing element is compressed, the gripper element moves toward said golf club, and when said biasing element is expended the gripper element moves away from said golf club.

19. The golf club storage apparatus of claim 18 further comprising:

a padding attached to said gripper.

20. The golf club storage apparatus of claim 19 further comprising:

a polymeric structure adapted to capture a club head of said golf club, wherein said polymeric structure is attached to a distal end of said gripper.

21. A protective device for storing a golf club comprising:

a first elongated tube adapted for storing a golf club;

a second elongated tube having an inner diameter greater than the outer diameter of said first tube, wherein said first elongated tube is slidably positioned within said second elongated tube;

a gripper adapted to hold said golf club, wherein said gripper is connected to said first elongated tube; and

a spring positioned between said first and second tube, where in said spring is adapted to bias the position of said first elongated tube within said second elongated tube.

22. The protective device of claim 21 further comprising:

a locking mechanism adapted to secure said first elongated tube within said second elongated tube when said spring is compressed.

23. The protective device of claim 22 wherein said spring having a reactive spring force greater than a combined weight of said first elongated tube and an average golf club.

24. The protective device of claim 21 wherein said resilient spring having a reactive spring force greater than a weight of said first elongated tube and less than the combined weight of a average golf club and said first elongated tube.

25. The protective device of claim 21 wherein said spring is positioned between an outer bottom surface of said first elongated tube and an inner bottom surface of said second elongated tube.

26. A protective device for storing a golf club comprising:

a first elongated tube adapted for storing a golf club;

a second elongated tube having an inner diameter greater than the outer diameter of said first elongated tube, wherein said first elongated tube is slidably positioned within said second elongated tube;

a gripper adapted to hold said golf club, wherein said gripper is connected to said second elongated tube; and

a spring positioned between said first and second tube, where in said spring is adapted to bias the position of said first elongated tube within said second elongated tube.

27. The protective device of claim 26 wherein said spring is positioned between an outer bottom surface of said first elongated tube and an inner bottom surface of said second elongated tube.

28. The protective device of claim 26 further comprising:

a locking mechanism for securing said first elongated tube within said second elongated tube when said resilient spring is compressed.

29. The protective device of claim 28 wherein said resilient spring having a reactive spring force greater than a combined weight of said first elongated and an average golf club.

30. The protective device of claim 26 wherein said resilient spring having a reactive spring force greater than a weight of said first elongated tube and less than a combined weight of an average golf club and said first elongated tube.

31. The protective device of claim 26 further comprising:

an interlocking mechanism adapted to connect said first elongated tube to said gripper.

32. A protective device for storing a golf club comprising:

a first elongated tube adapted for storing a golf club;

a second elongated tube having an inner diameter greater than the outer diameter of said first tube, wherein said first elongated tube is slidably positioned within said second elongated tube;

a spring positioned between said first and second tube, where in said spring is adapted to bias the position of said first elongated tube within said second elongated tube; and

a gripper adapted to hold said golf club when said spring is compressed, wherein said gripper is integrated within a midsection of said first elongated tube.

33. The protective device of claim 32 wherein said gripper is a clamp.

34. The protective device of claim 32 further comprising:

a locking mechanism adapted to secure said first elongated tube within said second elongated tube when said resilient spring is compressed.

35. The protective device of claim 34 wherein said spring having a reactive spring force greater than a combined weight of said first elongated tube and an average golf club.

36. The protective device of claim 32 wherein said spring having a reactive spring force greater than a weight of said first elongated tube and less than the combined weight of a average golf club and said first elongated tube.

37. A golf club storage system comprising:

a golf bag;

a plurality of elongated tubes positioned within said golf bag, wherein each of said plurality of elongated tubes further comprising (a) an inner tube slidably positioned within each of said elongated tube, (b) a gripper connected to each of said inner tube, and (c) a spring positioned between each of said elongated tubes and its corresponding inner tube.

38. A golf club storage system of claim 37 further comprising:

a divider plate adapted to secure said plurality of elongated tubes within said golf bag.

39. The protective device of claim 37 wherein each of said plurality of springs having a reactive spring force greater than a combined weight of said inner tube and a golf club.

40. The protective device of claim 37 wherein each of said plurality of springs having a reactive spring force greater than a weight of said inner tube and less than a combined weight of a golf club and said inner tube.